



### Infant/Toddler Art Activities

#### Shape Art (6 months - 3 years old)

On a large piece paper (or old paper grocery bags) draw a variety of shapes using a black marker. The shapes can vary in size and some can overlap. Place the paper in front of your child and give them an art material of your choice (crayons, colored pencils, markers, and paint) to fill in the shapes however they choose. As your child is exploring the shape mural talk with them about the shapes that they are filling in (name of the shape, how many sides). For older children this can be extended by giving them their own piece of paper and marker to create the base of their own shape art to be filled in.

#### Paint with Cars (6 months - 3 years old)

Place a large piece of paper on a table or the floor. Give your child a car and paint; encourage your child to dip the car in the paint and move across the paper. To encourage cooperative play have another child (or adult) sit across from your child and encourage your child to roll the car to the other person. Primary colors (red, blue, yellow) can be used on different cars with this activity, and as the colors mix you can talk to your child about the new colors you see. You can extend this activity by placing the dirty cars in a tub with warm water, soap and wash cloths or old toothbrushes to clean the cars.

#### Finger Painting (3 months - 3 years old)

Give your child a piece of paper with finger-paint (either store bought or homemade) and encourage them to move the paint on the paper. For infants who are not sitting up, paint and paper can be placed inside a Ziploc or grocery bag and taped to the floor and baby can be encouraged to move hands on the bag to spread paint during tummy time.

#### Homemade Edible Finger-paint (safe for babies and young toddlers to eat, but does not have a taste that encourages eating)

Ingredients:

- 4 Tablespoons corn starch
- Cold water
- 1 Cup boiling water
- Liquid food coloring

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, mix the corn starch with enough cold water to make a paste. (Not too runny).
2. Pour in 1 cup of boiling water and stir thoroughly so there are no lumps.
3. Turn on medium heat on the stove and mix. The mixture will start to change and you will notice some clear streaks forming in the mixture. Once you see this, turn off the heat and continue stirring. It will start to thicken and turn into a wonderful, custard-like consistency.
4. Spoon equal amounts into empty jars, cups or containers and add food coloring. Mixing until completely combined. For each color, we added 3 drops of yellow, green, red and blue. To make orange, we added 1 drop of red and 2 yellow and to make purple, we added 1 drop of blue and 2 red.
5. Store in the fridge covered with cling wrap for up to 2 weeks. This paint recipe does not have any preservative in it, so it is important to check that the paint has not expired before giving it to children.

Tip: If the mixture has hardened from being in the fridge, adding a little bit of boiling hot water or leave the paint out for a few hours will return to its smooth consistency



### **Painting (3 months - 3 years)**

Give your child a piece of paper, tempera paint, and a tool to paint with. A paintbrush works well, but there are many other objects around the house that can be used. Examples include: cotton balls, Q-tips, blocks, Legos, animals/dinosaurs, balls, paper towel roll, kitchen utensils with holes (slotted spoon, whisk, and fork for example), cookie cutters, leaves, pinecones, branches, balloons, old fly swatters. Try placing the paper on different surfaces; your child uses their core muscles as they stand to paint; if possible, attach paper to a fence and encourage your child to paint. In addition to paper you can have your child paint boxes; that can be used to build a fort. To extend the activity you can place objects that you use to paint with in a tub with soapy water, and wash cloths and encourage your child to clean the toys after they are done

### **Paper Collage (1 ½ - 3 years)**

Create a collage with your child using old paper around the house (i.e. tissue paper, construction paper, wrapping paper, newspaper/grocery ads) To work your child's fine motor skills you can give your child the paper to tear in small pieces with their fingers. Children 2-3 years old can use safety scissors to cut the paper as well. Once the paper is in smaller pieces give your child a piece of contact paper or a construction paper with glue to attach the paper to. Papers can be cut into shapes such as flower, egg, or bird if your child chooses.

### **Gluing (1 ½ - 3years)**

Give your child a piece of paper and some glue to spread on the paper; either in a small bottle or a small amount on a paper plate with a paint brush. After your child spreads the glue on the paper give them a variety of craft materials (i.e. buttons, beads, scrap fabric, cotton balls/pom-poms, yarn/string, the possibilities are endless!) and encourage them to add craft materials to the paper. Picking up the objects and placing them on the paper builds their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, and builds their self-esteem and self-confidence as they are creating their art work. For older children (2 ½ - 3) squeezing the glue bottle and controlling how much glue goes on the paper builds fine motor skills and dexterity.

### **Chalk Art (1 ½ - 3 years)**

Give your child several pieces of sidewalk chalk and draw either on a piece of paper or the sidewalk. Next show your child how to dip a piece of the chalk in a small container of water and have them draw on the paper or sidewalk. As they are drawing ask if they notice any differences in how the chalk looks. Children can also be given paintbrushes and water to experiment how that changes how the chalk looks. If your child enjoys sidewalk chalk you can extend the activity and make sidewalk chalk paint to explore on paper or the sidewalk

### **HOW TO MAKE SIDEWALK CHALK PAINT:**

Ingredients:

1/2 cup Cornstarch

2/3 cup Water

Food Coloring

Mix together the water and cornstarch, and stir until the cornstarch dissolves. Our chalk paint recipe generally calls for a 1:1 ratio of cornstarch and water, when painting on the sidewalk instead of paper, incorporate just a bit more water. Divide the paint mixture into the wells of a muffin tin or similar painting tray, and add food coloring to achieve the desired colors – note that the colors will dry much



lighter on the sidewalk than they appear in the tin! You can add a bit more cornstarch and freeze your paint to create your own sidewalk chalk!

### **Tissue Paper Art (1 ½ - 3 years old)**

Encourage your child to cut or tear tissue paper into smaller pieces. Next encourage them to arrange the tissue paper on a piece of white paper, and paint over the tissue paper with watered-down glue; this will create a stained-glass effect when dry. Encourage your child to layer the tissue paper to see what happens. Tissue paper can be cut into different shapes by an adult to encourage shape recognition while working on art.

### **Tie Dye Art (1 ½ - 3 years old)**

Your child can create tie dye art work using thinner paper, such as white tissue paper or coffee filters and markers. Using markers have your child draw any way they choose on the paper using a variety of colors. Once they are done drawing use a spray bottle, and spray water on the paper and watch the colors bleed and mix together. Experiment with what happens when you color on wet paper with the marker, do the colors still bleed?